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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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----------112724 161418Z /50
O R 161240Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9324
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3551

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LI, CG
SUBJECT: GOL CONCERN OVER SHABA SITUATION

REFS: (A) STATE 123452 (NOTAL; (B) MONROVIA 3529 (NOTAL);
(C) MONROVIA 2377 (NOTAL)

1. MORE CONCERNED THAN I HAVE SEEN HIM IN SOME TIME, PRESIDENT TOLBERT REVIEWED THE SHABA SITUATION WITH ME FOR A HALF HOUR THIS MORNING. RECALLING THAT HE HAD NOT ONLY WRITTEN PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT MOBUTU'S OWN CONCERNS AND HAD RE-EMPHASIZED THE POINTS OF HIS LETTER DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT HERE, TOLBERT SAID THAT HE WAS "DISTURBED" BY THE PATTERN HE SEES DEVELOPING, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, WHERE COMMUNISTS FEEL FREE TO ATTACK THE "DEMOCRACIES". HE SAID HE WAS SORRY TO BE SO FRANK BUT THAT THESE ADVERSARIES WERE DEMONSTRATING THEY HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE U.S. AND DON'T CARE WHAT THE U.S. SAYS. HE SAID THEY SEE THE U.S. AS A "BULLDOG THAT CAN'T BITE". HE ADDED THAT THE COMMUNISTS SEEMED DETERMINED TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE AND DOMINANCE
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IN AFRICA AND TO DO SO AT ANY COST. HE SAID THAT HE WAS APPEALING TO US AS OUR FRIEND AND ALLY, THAT IF IT IS ZAIRE TODAY IT COULD BE LIBERIA TOMORROW. HE SAID THE U.S. HAS TO LET THE COMMUNISTS KNOW THAT THEY HAVE GONE TOO FAR, THAT WE HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THEM AND SHOULD USE IT.

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2. PROMISING TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON, I REVIEWED THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND OUTLINED SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ZAIRE'S FRIENDS ARE THINKING ABOUT, STRESSING THAT BELGIUM IS THE NATURAL FOCAL POINT FOR THIS EFFORT.

3. AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL A, I RAISED WITH TOLBERT WHAT POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES THE AFRICANS MIGHT TAKE. TOLBERT RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT COMMUNICATING WITH PRESIDENT BONGO BUT AS WE REVIEWED THE OPTIONS, INDICATED THAT INSTEAD HE MIGHT SEND AN ENVOY TO KINSHASA IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A FIRST HAND REPORT OF THE SITUATION AND THEN ON TO LIBREVILLE TO EXPLORE WITH BONGO WHAT HE MIGHT DO AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU TO HELP THE SITUATION. WITH KAUNDA CLEARLY IN MIND, HE SAID OAU STATES SHOULD NOT LEND ANY ENCOURAGEMENT TO DISSIDENTS STRESSING THAT HE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT PERMIT IVORIAN OR GUINEAN DISSIDENTS TO ATTACK EITHER OF THOSE COUNTRIES FROM LIBERIA. HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO CONTACTING KAUNDA.

4. LASTLY I POINTED OUT THAT AT THE TIME OF THE CONFLICT IN SHABA LAST FALL, ANGOLA GOVERNMENT HAD USED AS JUSTIFICATION THAT MOBUTU WAS SUPPORTING ANGOLAN DISSIDENTS AGAINST MPLA, BUT THAT THIS NO LONGER SEEMED TO BE THE CASE. TOLBERT AGREED EMPHASIZING THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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MOBUTU HAD TOLD HIM PERSONALLY THAT HE WOULD NO LONGER GIVE SUCH SUPPORT.
CARTER

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